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SUBSTITUTE ABSTRACT

Please substitute the following abstract in place of the current abstract:

-- Apparatus and methods consistent with the present invention identify and sort a mailpiece with destination information by sorting the mailpiece using a code on the front of the mailpiece, if there is a code on the front of the mailpiece. If the mailpiece does not have the code on the front of the mailpiece, and if there is a code on the back of the mailpiece, the mailpiece is identified using a code on the back of the mailpiece. If the mailpiece does not have the code on the front or on the back of the mailpiece, then the mailpiece is sorted in an identification code system. In the identification code system, an identification code is applied to the back of the mailpiece and a postal code is applied to the front of the mailpiece in accordance with the destination information. An identification file corresponding to the identification code is then created. The identification file may be accessed by a plurality of nodes in the identification code system. --

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